

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (currently amended) A method for filtering fluid comprising:

providing fluid to be filtered against a first side of a flexible membrane opposite housing, ~~wherein the flexible housing houses~~ from a second side of the flexible membrane that includes compressible filter media;

compressing the flexible housing membrane with the fluid to be filtered from the first side to compress the filter media on the second side of the flexible membrane; and

filtering the fluid to be filtered through the filter media on the second side of the flexible membrane to remove solid particles from the fluid to be filtered.

Claim 27 (currently amended) The method of claim 26 further comprising:

agitating the filter media to dislodge solids adhering to the media after filtering fluid through the media; and

removing effluent containing solids dislodged during the agitating of the filter media by guiding expelled backwash fluid away from reentering [[the]] a housing.

Claims 28-31 (canceled)

Claim 32 (currently amended) A method for filtering fluid comprising:

receiving fluid to be filtered in a housing, wherein at least a portion of the housing is inwardly compressible and said inwardly compressible portion contains compressible filter media including pliant, detached filter elements;

compressing the housing in a direction non-parallel to the direction of fluid flow through the filter media and decreasing the volume of the filter media; and

filtering fluid through the compressed filter media in a top to down direction to remove solid particles.

Claim 33 (original) The method of claim 32 wherein the housing includes a flexible membrane.

Claim 34 (original) The method of claim 32 wherein the filter media is included in a bed of filter media, the bed including at least two different compression zones.

Claim 35 (previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein at least one compression zone is uncompressed by the housing.

Claims 36-44 (canceled)

Claim 45 (currently amended) A method for filtering fluid comprising:

receiving fluid to be filtered in a housing, wherein the housing contains compressible filter media detached from any surrounding portion of the housing;

compressing and increasing density of at least a portion of the filter media in a direction non-parallel to the direction of the flow of fluid to be filtered through the filter media by overcoming hydrostatic pressure of the fluid within the housing; ~~to be filtered~~
~~deforming the filter media;~~ and

filtering the fluid through the media to remove solid particles; and

agitating and circulating the filter media to backwash the solid particles from the media.

Claim 46 (canceled)

Claim 47 The method of claim 45 ~~[[46]]~~ wherein elevated backwash fluid is expelled through an upper perforated plate in the housing that includes at least one trough~~[[s]]~~ adjacent to the plate that directs elevated backwash fluid from reentering the housing through the plate.

Claim 48 (currently amended) A method for filtering fluid comprising:

providing a filter housing that contains compressible filter media detached from any surrounding portion of the housing;

receiving fluid to be filtered in ~~[[a]] the housing, wherein the housing contains compressible filter media detached from any surrounding portion of the housing;~~

compressing and reducing the volume of at least a portion of the filter media to create two or more distinct compression zones; and

filtering the fluid through the media to remove solid particles.

Claim 49 (currently amended) The method of claim 48 wherein the at least a portion of the filter media is compressed by at least a portion of the housing.

Claim 50 (previously presented) The method of claim 49 wherein the at least a portion of the filter media is compressed by the fluid to be filtered exerting pressure inwardly from outside the housing.

Claim 51 (new) The method of claim 48 wherein the housing includes flexible material.

Claims 52 (new) The method of claim 51 wherein the filter media includes fibrous bundles.

Claim 53 (new) The method of claim 45 wherein the housing includes flexible material.

Claim 54 (new) The method of claim 53 wherein the filter media includes fibrous bundles.

Claim 55 (new) The method of claim 33 wherein the filter media includes fibrous bundles.

Claim 56 (new) The method of claim 26 wherein the filter media includes detached fibrous bundles.